



Office of Military Affairs Connecticut Military and Defense Advisory Council

**October 9, 2008
Minutes of Meeting**

Members Present:

Justin Bernier, Chairman & Executive Director of the Office of Military Affairs; Lieutenant Colonel **Russell J. Bonaccorso, Jr.**, USA; Rear Admiral **J. Scott Burhoe**, USCG; Senator **Leonard A. Fasano**; Captain **Mark S. Ginda**, USN; Representative **Ted C. Graziani**; **Frank J. Johnson**; Senator **Gary D. LeBeau**; Major General **Thaddeus J. Martin**, CTNG; Commissioner **Joan McDonald**; **Alfred Meek**; **John R. Rathgeber**; Commissioner **Linda Schwartz**

Guests:

Jeffrey Nelson; James A. Noone; Daniel C. Thurston, Jr. (for **Harvey E. Daggett**)

I. Introduction: Chairman Justin Bernier called the meeting to order.

II. Background on Connecticut Military and Defense Advisory Council: Chairman Bernier gave a brief presentation on the reason for the formation of the Connecticut Military and Defense Advisory Council, which consists of state employees and legislators, military leaders and business association representatives.

Public Act No. 07-205 calls for the establishment of a Connecticut Military and Defense Advisory Council to provide technical advice and offers of assistance, which will be transmitted to the Governor. The mission's three main points are basing, military personnel and defense industries.

Chairman Bernier explained that the Council is not a task force; that he would like the Council to be the purveyor of its own advice and keep a level of informality.

Members of the Council serve voluntarily for two-year terms (no term limits). Non-member experts and interested parties will be invited to address the Council, as necessary. Meetings are open to the public.

Pursuant to Connecticut law, by a vote of two-thirds of members present and voting, the Council may enter into a closed executive session for legally permissible reasons, such as issues related to security.

Chairman Bernier welcomed Mr. James A. Noone, Senior Vice President of the Washington Group, to the meeting.

III. Recognition of Council Members: As this was the inaugural meeting of the body, members introduced themselves to the full Council.

IV. A presentation was given by Rear Admiral Scott Burhoe, Superintendent of the United States Coast Guard Academy. He explained that Connecticut is fortunate to have one of the nation's four service academies, where there are 1,000 cadets, the Coast Guard Band and the Coast Guard Cutter, *Eagle*.

He recently watched a special on television of about 20 young people learning to sail to Hawaii and mentioned that he would like to have such a special at the Coast Guard Academy, showing how the Academy develops leaders of character.

Three hundred students are admitted each year to a four-year program dealing with science, technology, engineering and math, intelligence and leadership studies, and sports programs. Presently, the Academy is working on the engineering building improvements, building a pedestrian bridge to cross railroad tracks to the athletic fields, and upgrading barracks. The Academy has a \$25 million annual budget. It works with the State Police in a leadership program. It brings high education and leadership to this area, and is growing and expanding rather than decreasing or declining.

V. Major General Thaddeus Martin of the Connecticut Military Department, Connecticut National Guard gave a presentation. He explained that the Air National Guard (ANG) paid a price in the Department of Defense's (DoD) Defense Base Realignment and Closure round (BRAC 2005). Post-BRAC (13 May 2005), the goals were to protect Connecticut's allocated personnel resources, secure a flying mission and take on new missions.

The ANG did not lose any full-time personnel or traditional guardsmen; however, the last A-10 transferred out on 8 April 2008. The C-21 is the "bridge" to the C-27 JCA. The TF-34 Centralized Engine Repair Facility (CERF) has a future operational capability date of March 2010. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 there is an allocation of \$9.5M for the CERF Engine Shop. The Air Operations Group Site Activation Task Force (AOG SATAF) has an initial operational capability of October 2009. Over the next four years, there is approximately \$35M for the Military Construction (MILCON) master plan.

The Army National Guard (ARNG) received \$18M in FY08 for the Niantic Readiness Center. In FY09, the ARNG Received \$32M for the Regional Training Institute, \$14M for the East Haven Rifle Range, and \$64M for the Middletown Joint Regional Training Center. The Army MILCON program through 2014 has \$350M.

VI. Captain Mark Ginda of United States Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASE) gave a brief presentation. SUBASE provides facilities, services and the environment necessary to deploy combat-ready submarines and their crews, and to train professional submariners to ensure and enhance the nation's security.

SUBASE is home to one-third of the nation's attack submarine force. The operational waterfront has 17 submarines, the Admiral and staff, and three submarine squadron staffs. He reported that there are shipyards and floating dry-dock capability for maintenance and ordnance. The Submarine School is attended by 1,200 to 1,800 students, and support commands include facility engineering and supply, health clinic and dental, undersea medicine and research, the Admiral Fife Navy Recreation Area and more. SUBASE is the second largest employer in southeastern Connecticut, with over 7,500 active and reserve component military personnel, and 2,000 civilian workers and their families. SUBASE occupies more than 687 acres on base and 530 acres off base, nine barracks and more than 1,500 Public Private Venture family housing units.

Captain Ginda reported that there is ongoing infrastructure transformation at the base. In order to consolidate and eliminate excess, demolition in FY06 included 76,000 square feet; 33 buildings totaling 404,000 sq. ft. in FY07; and in FY08 Pier 1 was demolished, reducing the footprint of the base by 25 percent, with additional opportunities available in FY09.

MILCON recently completed in "Shore Vision 2035" include the Tomahawk Weapon Magazine (\$3.6M), modernized security gates (\$5.2M) and a new 67-foot wide Pier 6 (\$30.7 M). Construction in progress at this time includes \$13.6M for the Escape Trainer, \$4.0M for a crane maintenance facility to be completed in January 2009, \$11.9M for a Waterfront Operations Facility, and a Submarine Learning Center Headquarters (\$9.3M). FY09 MILCON will include Pier 31 (\$46M), an indoor firing range (\$11M), and Youth and School-age Care expansion (\$3M).

Future MILCON includes Commissary/Exchange (FY10/12); Pier 34 (FY11) and Pier 33; a fitness center; ordnance/maintenance/power plant recapitalization, bachelor housing consolidation re-capitalization, a fire station, and an on-base Child Development Center (CDC).

Chairman Bernier brought up the fact that enlisted personnel and guardsmen might be eligible for the Governor's home heating assistance program.

VII. Commissioner Joan McDonald of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) explained that financial services are available for businesses. Programs including low-interest loans for business expansion and retention or relocation are available from the State. The State has assisted Electric Boat for docks, for Virginia-class submarine construction and other aerospace and defense industries.

Supply chain companies are the backbone and future of the economy. The State participated at an international air show; DECD went with thirteen supply chain companies to England this year. DECD has a partnership with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) for grants, business plans, technical assistance, etc. DECD is working with high schools to bolster and improve skills to remain competitive in the global economy. With the slowdown of the economy, DECD is available to help with permitting for construction jobs.

At the Small Business Innovation Research Conference to be held in Hartford, Connecticut on November 12-14, 2008, the Department of Energy will be represented. Connecticut companies will make links and could get contracts at that meeting.

Commissioner McDonald reported that DECD recently sent a survey to CEOs and is getting close to a 100 percent response rate. DECD will send the survey to the military, as well.

Through the Connecticut State Technology Extension Program, Connecticut is the most productive workforce in all 50 states, on a per capita basis. The cost of labor and energy in Connecticut is higher than elsewhere.

Mr. Rathgeber said that science and English are important so that the Connecticut workforce can remain competitive. CAPT Ginda also mentioned a model from Texas focusing on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) for 5th graders. Rep. Graziani mentioned a pilot program with Hamilton Standard, Pratt & Whitney and Sikorsky to develop best practices.

VIII. Mr. James Noone of the Washington Group presented a congressional overview, explaining that three appropriation bills were passed recently.

The FY09 defense authorization bill passed by Congress on 27 September 2008 added \$300M for advance procurement components for Virginia-class submarines. It also added \$140M for advance procurement to keep open the F-22 production line. The F-22 uses Pratt & Whitney engines. The bill included funding for MILCON projects in Connecticut, as well.

The FY09 defense appropriations bill passed on 27 September 2008 provided \$79M for advance procurement for Virginia-class submarines for a total of \$3.5B for the program – \$2.1B for FY10 boat and \$1.4B for long-lead procurement. The result is that two boats per year will be produced starting in FY11.

The funding package for MILCON projects in Connecticut in the Veterans Administration-MILCON bill passed by Congress on 27 September 2008 includes: \$46M for the replacement of Pier 31 at SUBASE; \$11M for an indoor firing range at SUBASE; \$28M for a Regional Training Institute for ARNG at Camp Rell, Niantic; \$13.8M for the ARNG East Haven Rifle Range and \$7.2M for the ANG expansion of the engine repair shop at Bradley International Airport.

IX. Additional Comments:

Mr. Meek, Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Connecticut, said that we need to take care of our service retirees. Connecticut is taxing these young people with technology knowledge gained while in the service in Connecticut, and they will move out of the State.

Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs Linda Schwartz asked about changes with regard to the G.I. Bill and said that veterans want to know what kinds of benefits are available for them. She said that proper care for the wounded veterans is important.

Rear Admiral Burhoe asked if there are reduced rates at colleges to keep dependents and talented people in Connecticut. Chairman Bernier explained that any service member with a DD-214 has

free tuition in the State college and university system. Commissioner Schwartz reported that a service member can pass the benefit on to a spouse or children.

X. Conclusion and Adjournment: Chairman Bernier said that the lines of communication are very important. The next meeting to be determined based on members' availability.